

The Northwesrt Counties League Premier Division

09.04.2013 Kick Off 7.45pm

Bootle Football Club v Alsager Town FC

www.bootlefc.co.uk



# History of the Bucks



The original Bootle F.C. were formed in 1880 and played at Hawthorne Road. They were in fact Everton FC's biggest rivals. In 1889–90 Bootle became founder members of the Football Alliance, narrowly missing out on the football league to the blues. That season was the

most successful as we finished league runners-up, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Cup, where we lost to Blackburn Rovers (0-7). When the Alliance merged with the Football League in 1892, Bootle became founder members of the new Second Division. However, despite a respectable 8th place final position, the club dropped out after one season (and were replaced by neighbours Liverpool) and seemingly disappeared due to financial problems.

Football returned to Hawthorne Road when a new club, Bootle Athletic. was later formed with the new team initially playing in the Liverpool Leagues. In 1948 when the club were elected to the Lancashire Combination 2, which was won at the first attempt. However, Bootle struggled in the top-flight and

after several tough seasons withdrew and folded during the 1953–54 campaign. In 1953, the current club was formed as Langton and played in the local leagues. After a very successful spell in the Liverpool County Combination (which we



won on numerous occasions) the club reverted back to it's It's better known identity of Bootle F.C. in 1973; and a year later joined the Lancashire Combination, which we won in 1976 and 1977. Bootle then joined the Second Division of the Cheshire County League, which was won in our first season, and we were promoted to the First Division. In 1982 the Cheshire County League was one of the leagues that merged to form the North West Counties League, which Bootle duly joined, becoming a member of the First Division. The club spent most of their time in the First Division until 2000 when we unfortunately dropped into the Second Division. However, despite finishing 6th in 2002, the club

despite finishing 6th in 2002, the club dropped into the Liverpool County Combination. In 2006 the club, with a new ground, were elected back into Division 2 of the North West Counties League. In 2009 Bootle won promotion to the NWCL Premier

Division and also won the Championship. In 2009/10, our first season back in the NWCFL Premier Division Bootle finished a NWCFL highest placing of 3rd. In 2010/11 finished 6th place. They equalled the 3rd place again in 2012. With the ground grading and charter standard status established in 2011/12 the club are looking to progress to the next level.

## Club Landmarks

League First Division Champions 2008-09 Liverpool Challenge Cup 1964-65, 1975-76, 1978-79 Liverpool Amateur Cup 1965-66, 1967-68, 1973-74 Liverpool County FA Youth Cup 1977-78, 1984-85, 1990-91, 1999-00, 2005-06 Lancashire Amateur Cup 1970 Liverpool County nation Champions 1964-65, 1965-66, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74 Lancashire County ombination Champions 1975-76, 1976-77 eshire County League Div Two Champions 1978-79 h West Counties League Div Two Runners-up 1992-93 nnants Floodlit Trophy Winners 1993-94 at League Challenge Cup Runners-up 2007-08 Vodkat League ve Division Winners 2007-08, 2009-10 Runners-up 2008-09 \*Liverpool Senior Cup Winners 1883, 1888, 1889 \*Football Alliance Runners-up 1889-90

Leading by example, Powell and Seddon aided Manager Richie Boswarva in raising some really tired players into one final effort. Bootle continued to create chances. Rowlands on as a substitute was wrestled to the ground in the Vauxhall box but the officials inextricably refused to award a penalty.

The same player then raced clear into the Vauxhall's penalty area only to shoot tamely at the foreboding Vauxhall Number 1. The final 5 minutes petered out tamely as players struggled to last the pace.

And so to a penalty shoot out - a position Bootle shouldn't have found themselves in and one they must have approached with some trepidation given the performance of Vauxhall's keeper. However, Bootle had their own ace up their sleeve in Goalkeeper Mathew Lea.

Vauxhalls won the toss and took the first penalty which Lea dived low to his right to parry away. Smart then put Bootle 1-0 up with a coolly executed effort and Vauxhall then put their second effort past the post, only for Adam Wishart to do the same for Bootle. After 2 pens each Bootle were 1-0 up. Lea then saved Vauxhall Motor's third penalty diving low to his left, only for <a href="Joel Powell">Joel Powell</a> to miss Bootle's third - still 1-0 Bootle. Quarless stepped up to put Motors level with his side's fourth but Pruden capped a great performance by striking a sweet penalty inches inside the left hand post. 2-1 Bootle and Motor's had to score their fifth spot kick, but Lea had other ideas, again diving low to his right to save well.

Quite a remarkable game that Bootle keeper Matty Lea will remember for a long time. Not called upon to make 1 save during 120 minutes of open play, he then makes 3 penalty shoot out saves, saving Jackson Ellis the anxiety of having to score Bootle last penalty. Wishart, Seddon and Powell were fantastic at the back and Smart, Charnock and Pruden showed their class. However, it was the hard working team ethic, comradery and desire to win that carried Bootle over the line to Victory.

With a LCFA Cup Final to come on Thursday 2nd May v Gateacre and a League Cup Semi Final to play against Vauxhall Motor's again, on Saturday 20th April, this extremely talented group of players can still dream of a Cup Treble! First up though is a potential Title decider away to South Liverpool next Saturday.

The players could not be faulted for effort or endeavour





Bootle entertained Vauxhall Motors on Saturday in the Final of the Halton & West Cheshire League Cup.

The game was played at the Widnes Stobart Stadium - a 16,000 all seater venue with a state of the art 3G pitch, in bright spring sunshine.

Manager Richie Boswarva named the same side that had performed so well to overcome Gateacre in the Semi Final the previous Tuesday.

The initial exchanges were very cagey with much of the game being played in the middle of the park. Bootle failed to impose themselves on their opponents as they would have liked and their main outlet was the dangerous Pruden, who was causing Vauxhall's right back all sorts of problems without delivering a final quality ball into the box.

After 40 minutes neither goalkeeper had been forced to make a real save but that was soon all to change. In no danger from their own goal kick, Bootle's keeper Lea played a short ball to the edge of his own area to Powell. Immediately, put under pressure, Joel gave the ball away in a dangerous area and was made to pay the penalty as Vauxhalls midfield lynchpin, Quarless, slid a fine ball through the home defence for the centre forward to score.

This stung Bootle into action for the remaining minutes of the first half. Billy Smart played a neat one - two on the edge of the Vauxhall's area and shot narrowly wide. A succession of corners were forced that all came to nothing and Bootle entered half time with work to do.

Bootle began the second period much better and almost immediately Cheetham drove forward through the centre of the pitch and unleashed a terrific drive from 20 yards that skimmed the bar on the way over.

More chances followed and Pruden cut in from the left and hit a dipping effort that again just cleared the goal. Minutes later Bootle were level. From a corner on the right, Billy Smart rose highest to powerfully head home from 8 yards.

Game on and Bootle began to crank up the pressure. Pruden again cut in from the right and ran into the Vauxhall area. 15 yards out he hit a sweet shot that the outstanding Motors keeper parried. He then somehow managed to get up and dive low to his right to save Pruden's second effort. Still refusing to be beaten he then again remarkably managed to block a third effort and the ball was scrambled away for a corner!

His best was yet to come though! with the clock ticking down and 90 minutes showing on the scoreboard. Pruden yet again struck a wonderful effort from 25 yards. Amazingly, the Vauxhall goalie arrowed backwards and stretching every sinew, just succeeded to turn the ball over the bar - a quite remarkable save, was this to be Bootle's day?





Founder members of the Football Alliance 1889, The Football League Div2\* 1892 & The Northwest Counties Football League 1982

Awarded FA Charter Standard Status in November 2011

## An associated committee consisting of elected members:

Chairman Mr Frank Doran Jnr Deputy Chairman Mr Ben Roberts Life President Mr Frank Doran Snr Honorary President Mr Joe Benton MP Committee Mr Bobby Capstick, Mr Dave Ruth, Mr Geoff Frasier, Mr Tommy McKay, Mr Tony McKay Head of Finance/ Club Secretary Mr Joseph Doran Assistant Secretary Mr Dave Miley Snr

1st Team Assisitant Manager Mr James Olsen

1st Team Coach

1st Team Manager

Mr Neil Prince

Mr Neil Murphy Goalkeeping Coach

Mr Paul McCowen

Welfare

Mr Darren Carr

Head of Fitness & Wellbeina

Mr Liam Royle

Media & Communications Mr Dave Miley Jnr, Youth Football Co-ordinator

Mr Carl Dale



Teams





## **BOOTLE**

manager: Neil Prince

manager: Andy Turner

Dean PORTER

David POTTER

**Neil MCQUEEN** 

Mark KILROY

Michael CARBERRY

Phil GREEN

Sean COULTON

Liam DODD

Paul BYRNE (capt)

Joe FOWLER

James OLSEN

Jamie HAY

Kurtis GILL

Kevin BLACK

Kevin TOWNSON

Neil PRINCE

BIIIV SMART

Michael YOUNG

Daniel O'CONNOR

Tom FOLEY

Lee THOMPSON

Jack MCCABE

Nathan MARTLAND

Helio ANDRE

STONE

Ryan BROADHEAD

Sean TURNER

George BARLOW

Anthony GANDY

Michael LANGLEY

Daniel ROBERTS

Leigh SKELLERN

Ryan MITCHELL

Thomas PARKES

Jed DAVIES

Stuart HEEPS

Elliot LEDWARDS

Liam PRINCE

Jordan ELCOCK

Alex HEDLEY

Matthew DODWELL

Sam ASPINWALL

David WOODVINE

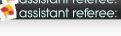
Mat COTON

Craig VERNON

Andrew STOCKTON

**MATCH OFFICIALS** 





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reusch

as Dual Rolled Expanse Cu Representing the art of defense the new Keon Deluxe G2 Ortho-Tec Limited perfectl comes with the new exclusive G2 Ultrasoft palm that even outranks its for Ihumblex™ for better movability, as well as Shockshield™ Advanced, Duraguard runner in terms if grip in dry and wet conditions. Shaped ESSTM, model







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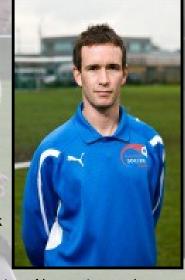
# The manager of Bootle Football Club

Hello and welcome to the Delta Taxis Stadium and a warm welcome to Andy Turner, Stuart Heaps, and all the team, staff and supporters of Alsager Town for this Northwest Counties Premier Division clash.

After a really good Easter period It's great that we are up there still and it is still in our own hands to win this league, which gives tonight's game more significance as we can make another telling statement to the rest of our rivals.

Stone Dominoes on Saturday was something of a walk-over, with the utmost respect to their club but we must be as focused as we can against whoever we come up against and we done a very professional job against a poor team on the day.

I was especially pleased that our forwards were again on the score sheet, with Lee Thompson, Jack McCabe and our newest player Helio Andre who all scored a brace and all looked very lively.

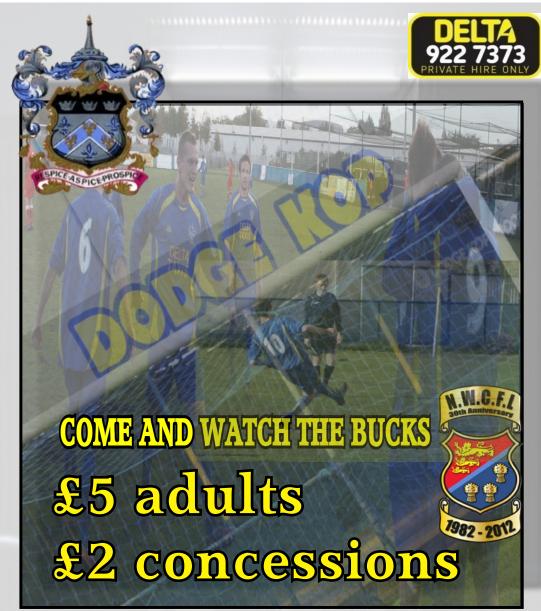


Today we come up against a more stern test against an Alsager team who we defeated a few weeks back and they tried to stop us playing but we scored three good goals at the right times, to make it game over with over twenty still left to play. Since that game they have lost to Maine Road 2-0 and then Barnoldwick 3-2 so we know it will be a tight game.

I do feel we are very much back in our stride now and back to the form we were in at the start of the season. With the positive additions we have made and the quality we already have in the squad I'm very hopeful that we can accomplish what we set out to do at the start of the season. We will continue to take it one game at a time and our focus is solely on tonight.

Up the Bucks!

# VEIL PRINCEY



\*free child entry with every full paying adult

\* offer starts in August 2011. Offer can be withdrawn at any time.

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THE BUGGS ARE NEXT AT HOME ON

Tuesday 16th April
V Southport
(7.45pm KO) in the
Liverpool Senior Cup
SEMI FINAL





Tuesday 23rd April
V Padiham
(7.45pm KO) in the NWCFL
Premier Division



Saturday 27th April
V Barnoldswick Town
(3pm KO) in the NWCFL
Premier Division





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As at 08/04/2013

Tuesday 9th April 2013
Premier Division
AFC Liverpool v Runcorn Town
Ashton Athletic v Silsden
Barnoldswick Town v Bacup
Borough (20:00)
Bootle v Alsager Town
Congleton Town v Runcorn
Linnets
Norton United v Stockport Sports
St Helens Town v AFC
Blackpool
Stone Dominoes v Winsford
United

First Division Holker Old Boys v Atherton LR Leek CSOB v Cheadle Town

On Tuesday 16th April versus Southport, Their will be a bucket Collection for The sefton Childrens Trust. Any donations will be most welcome



1 Maine Road	P 38	GD 36	Pts 78
2 Bootle	35	37	77
3 Padiham	36	42	75
4 Runcorn Town	35	54	74
5 Winsford United	35	33	69
6 Congleton Town	35	31	62
7 Runcorn Linnets	35	19	62
s 8 Colne	35	34	57
9 Barnoldswick	36	18	57
10 Glossop NE	37	3	48
11 Alsager Town	38	-10	46
12 Wigan RP	37	-12	46
13 Stockport Sports*	38	2	44
14 Norton United *	33	-15	44
15 AFC Liverpool	31	-1	42
16 AFC Blackpool	33	-7	42
17 Silsden	35	-37	31
18 Bacup Borough	27	-14	29
19 Squires Gate	35	-32	28
20 Ashton Athletic	34	-32	27
21 St Helens Town	36	-39	27
22 Stone Dominoes	36	-110	13

Kick off times are 3pm Sat, 7.45pm midweek unless stated otherwise





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## PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARDS

## PREMIER DIVISION - MARK COYNE OF COLNE

Mark joined the Reds last season from Oldham Boro as a striker but has been employed in a number of positions this season. No matter what role he is asked to play, he always puts in a good 90 minute shift.

During March he was employed in a midfield role and made a big contribution to the team's unbeaten run, with two wins and three draws during the month.

Highlights were a man of the match performance in the 5-1 win against Stone Dominoes, which included two goal assists, and again in the game away at Silsden in a 4–1 win when Mark's industry and perception of a killer pass were once more in evidence, as he again was involved in the build-up for two of the Colne goals. As well as contributing a solid months' performances, Mark's infectious enthusiasm rubs off positively on the other team members, and he is a genuinely nice lad whose attitude and performances are worthy of recognition.

## **DIVISION ONE - EMINI ADEGBENRO OF FORMBY**

As an out and out winger with skill and pace there isn't another player like Emini, or Mini as he prefers to be called, in the NWCFL. He has scored 19 goals in his own right and has been the creator of many more.

Formby started the month with an away win at Northwich Villa, when Mini scored one goal and created another for Formby's top goal scorer, Jason Carey and both goals typified Mini's quick and skilful style of play.

Formby then travelled to a resurgent Nelson and put on a superb display, winning 6-1, and Mini scored a goal of breathtaking individual brilliance and was awarded man of the match for his all-round performance. Indeed such an impact had he made that highlights of the match were posted on Youtube and has had over 300 views.

Mini carried his form into Formby's next match, a local derby with Ashton Town, when once again was awarded man of the match, and next up was a League Challenge Cup quarter final away at Bacup Borough. The game went into extra time and needed Mini's quicksilver feet, commitment and pace to settle it, when he set up the winning goal for Jason Carey.

Mini completed the month by scoring in Formby's next three matches against Atherton LR, Chadderton and AFC Darwen, and also set up Formby's fourth goal against Chadderton and their third at AFC Darwen.

He is often singled out by opponents so receives some heavy tackles yet, keen to make the most of his ability rather than his opponents challenges, he rides them out and has only been booked twice all season. He is a credit to his club and the league.



N.W.C.F.

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# All the news from the Official website of the Northwest Counties League



In the two seasons that Andrew has been Winsford's regular goalkeeper his advancement has been a revelation. From a great shot-stopper who

sometimes gave the supporters and his teammates some anxious moments, he has developed into a fine all round custodian who instills confidence in the rest of the defence. His anticipation and reading of the game has also been a great asset, with his vociferous instructions to his defenders significant in launching the quick-fire attacks for which the team has become noted. His performances in March were outstanding in a spell that saw the Blues win seven games and draw one, with only five goals conceded, and Andrew's recent form is certainly one of the main reasons why Winsford have a realistic chance of winning promotion.

### DIVISION ONE - NATHAN BRABIN OF ASHTON TOWN

Nathan continues to improve in his first season of playing at this level of football. He is one of the main reasons for Ashton Town's run of good form and has been one of the stand-out performers. His excellent agility and decision making continues to blossom, his ball handling skills are excellent, and his one on one shot stopping is incredible, giving his back four confidence in him as the last line of defence. During March, Nathan played in seven games, keeping a clean sheet in five of those. He was especially impressive in the 2-0 win over Chadderton, when nothing that the opposition could throw at the young Ashton keeper seemed to faze him, and made some excellent saves in the First Division Trophy Semi Final Second Leg, when the team won 1-0 to clinch an aggregate win and a place in the final.



# Our Visitors today....

From the county of Cheshire, to the Northwest of Stoke-on-Trent and east of the railway town of Crewe, the focal point of the town once being the lake, Alsager Mere, we welcome Alsager Town.

No previous history can be found at present about the club before the 1971/72 season when Alsager FC joined the Mid Cheshire League and they finished 12th in their first two seasons. Following the 1972/73 season the club changed their name to Alsager Town and thirteen years later they were still members of the Mid Cheshire League and for most of that time had competed in Division One. For the start of the 1986/87 season they changed their name again, this time to Alsager United. They finished



runners up in their second season under the United banner but for some reason they disbanded. Twelve months elapsed before the club re-formed for the 1989/90 season as Alsager United joining the Crewe League Premier Division. After two seasons the club moved back to the Mid Cheshire League Division 2 back under the Alsager FC banner, for the start of the 1991/92 season, They remained there until the end of the 1997/98 season when they moved to the Springbank Vending Midland League. Alsager finished runners up in their first season and were promoted to the North West Counties League Division 2 for the start of the 1999/ 2000 season. After just two seasons they again decided to change their name back to Alsager Town. The name change proved to be lucky for them as they finished in the runners-up spot with promotion to Division One. They remained in that league until the end of the 2005/06 season when they finished in third place. Due to changes being made by the FA to the non-league pyramid system Alsager were invited to step up to the Northern Premier League Division One which they did, finishing their first season in a creditable 14th place. Further changes were to be made by the FA to the non league system which saw Alsager Town move side ways in to the

# In Reserve

The reserves have been without a game for a couple of weeks, the most recent reason due to the first team game versus Glossop that was re-arranged for the Thursday, which meant the fixture versus Fylde reserves was unable to be played.

The young side are back in action this Thursday as they take on another young side in Ashton Athletic. So, why not come down and look at the future of Bootle FC. Admission is free.

Bootle Reserves versus Ashton Athletic Reserves 7.45pm Kick-off in the Galaxy Lancashire League At the Delta Taxis Stadium Thursday 11th April 2013

Congratulations to
Bootle FC Under 18's in winning the H&WC Cup final
Match report on page 26 & 27





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Unibond League Division One South. Another 14th place finish was the outcome but the club fell foul to the ground grading regulations and with required work not completed they were relegated back to the North West Counties League Premier Division. Due this set back the top management of the club walked out. Former chairman Peter Clegg stepped in taking control of the club. Clegg appointed former Witton Albion reserves coach, Neil Gill as manager.

For two seasons Neil Gill did a good job in keeping Alsager Town in the N.W.C.F.L Premier Division and then in early 2011 with finances tight the players expenses budget had to be cut and then later stopped completely. This was followed by the news that there were to be major changes at the club at the end of the season. Neil Gill, his assistant, the players and the committee walked away.

Acting Chairman Mike Cross had to Act quickly and Alsager's remaining committee voted for change. Terry Greer the former Chairman of Biddulph Victoria was elected to be the new Chairman. A new management team and playing staff had to be found. Stepping into the fray were Damian Grocott and Andy O'Connor they began the job of keeping Alsager Town in the N.W.C.F.L. Premier Divison. They worked hard to keep the status of the club secure which they did with three games in hand. For the 2011/12 season the club is looking to move forward with a new committee which was installed at the AGM in May their aim being to improve the club in all aspects on and off the pitch.

With things going well off the pitch, new showers had been installed, the dressing rooms and some of the club house re-decorated. The ground in general had been given a face lift when on the night of the Monday 11th July a catastrophic fire destroyed the office and part of the dressing rooms and club house, the whole building had to be demolished due the asbestos it was constructed with and the electricity was cut off due to the damage caused with the switch boxes etc. Since then the committee have worked tirelessly to get things in to place so that football can return to The Town ground. The committee of the N.W.C.F.L. have been superb in the way they have switched fixtures for The Bullets due to their massive problems.

The season ended with the Bullets finishing in 13th place with 57 points at end of the season poor run, but it was their best tally of points for some time. After the season ended manager John Brown stepped down and Chairman Terry Greer quickly set on former Kidsgrove Athletic Coach Andy Turner on as manager. Andy retained the previous season backroom staff but added another coach. Most of the 2011/ 12 season players stayed and Andy added a number of new faces, looking to improve on last seasons position.

## Easter 1892

## By Tony Onslow

Bootle began a busy set of Easter fixtures with a visit, on Good Friday, from the Queens of the South Wanderers. The Scottish club, who were based in Dumfries, is the forerunners of present Scottish League side, Queen of the South. The match proved to be well worth the entrance fee paid by the crowd, around 2,000 in number, as Bootle won a high scoring thriller by the odd goal in nine. Next day they headed off on an Easter tour where their first place of call was to be the Staffordshire town of Burton

They arrived in Brewery town around lunchtime to complete their list of Football Alliance fixtures against Burton Swifts. The match took play on the home of the

Midland club at Peel Croft where a crowd of around 2,000 had assembled in the hope that their favourites could repeat the victory, achieved earlier in the season, over Bootle at Hawthorne Road. The home side, once again, proved to have the measure of their opponents and had scored five goals before McEwen, with late consolation goal, replied for Bootle.

The result proved to be a great disappointment for the Bootle directors because a single point would have lifted them three places higher in the final Alliance table. Nevertheless the party continued on their journey.

They now took the train from Burton and arrived late that evening at St Pancres Railway Station in London.

They spent Easter Sunday sightseeing in the Capital, followed by an evening at the theater, before rising early on Easter Monday. The party then directed themselves to-wards Charing Cross Station. Here they boarded a train and alighted at Woolwich to be welcomed by the executive of Royal Arsenal Football Club who escorted them to the Invicta ground at Plumstead. The visit a professional team of players proved popular with the workers from the local munitions factory, as the home club was about to apply for application the Football League. A crowd of 6,000 watched the match. The visitors, who trailed for most of the game, hit back to earn a draw with late goal from Greirson. The Bootle party had then planned to leave for home directly after the match but decided instead, to play an extra game on the ground of nearby Maidstone. They were offered a fee of £15 or a half share of the gate should it be more than £30. Bootle, who decided on the first offer, beat Maidstone by 4 goals to 0 before returning home to Merseyside.



# Unbreakable, Broken

Arsenal, who had not travelled North to make up any numbers, came quickly out of the traps, scoring the opener within a couple of minutes. Everton, the champions, replied with an inevitable Dixie Dean header and then, just on half-time, Dean equalled George Camsell's record goal haul. After being dragged down in the box, Dean stepped up to convert his 59th goal of the season from the penalty spot. As the clock ticked ever down and with just minutes left to play, the 60 goal dream was hanging by a thread when, on 85 minutes, Everton forced another corner. The Toffees Scottish outsideleft, Alec Troup, floated his cross into the danger area and, as time stood still at Goodison Park, William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean rose majestically above the Arsenal defence to bury his header past the Gunners goalkeeper, William Paterson.

With that Goodison goal, Dixie Dean had overhauled George Camsell's record. A truly astonishing accomplishment. In the 39 games the Everton legend appeared in that season, Dean found the net in 31 of them, with 14 braces and 7 hat tricks, including a 4 and 5 goal haul against Burnley and Manchester United respectively.

An eyewitness account, as documented in his 'History Of The Everton Football Club 1878/9–1928/9,' by Everton historian and author Thomas Keates, epitomizes the sense of unbridled joy, unchecked wonder and no little relief experienced by all who attended the Grand Old Lady that spring afternoon in 1928. Those Evertonian souls lucky enough to have witnessed Dixie Dean's mind blowing achievement.

"You talk about explosions, and loud applause; we have heard many explosions, and much applause in our long pilgrimage, but, believe us, we have never heard such a prolonged roar of thundering, congratulatory applause before as to that which ascended to heaven when Dixie broke the record."

Dean's record of achievement, at both domestic and national levels, is extensive and beyond remarkable. However, it surely has to be his extraordinary feat of scoring 60 English top flight league goals in one season, that shall remain the most celebrated record of them all.

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## ntimed from page 13 Unbreakable, Broken

The newly promoted second division champions came away with a famous victory, with George Camsell firing all four goals in a 4-2 win. However, it would be Everton who went on to be crowned first division champions that year, whilst Boro were relegated. Incredibly, aged just 21, Dixie Dean would go on to take George Camsell's 'unbreakable' scoring record, by just the one solitary goal.

## 05 May, 1928

Everton vs Arsenal, Goodison Park, one could be forgiven for thinking the Evertonians who had crammed into Goodison Park on that early May afternoon, had done so solely to salute the newly crowned English first division champions. There was however, another very specific reason for the 48,715 supporters to make their fortnightly pilgrimage that fateful day.

The final game of the 1927/28 season at Goodison Park would see Harry Cooke's Everton meet Herbert Chapman's revered Arsenal side, yet all eyes would be transfixed on just one man, Everton's record chasing centre forward Dixie Dean. His race to surpass George Camsell's 'unbreakable' feat had been on course throughout the season. Dean had found the net in all of the first nine games, including a consolation goal, as Camsell netted four for Boro, as well as banging in all five in a 5-2 rout of Manchester United. By the turn of the year, the footballing fraternity began to believe in the unbelievable, when on New Year's Eve at Sheffield Wednesday, the goal hungry Dean bagged his 32nd and 33rd goals in just 23 games. The Birkenhead born centre forward's unquenchable thirst for goals continued unabated into 1928, with 11 strikes in the following eight games. The highlight being a hat trick in a 3-3 draw at Anfield.

Those three goals however, would see Dixie Dean and Everton go on a four game run without scoring. Suddenly the tilt at George Camsell's season old record was thrown into doubt. A Dean double at Derby County put a halt to the poor run of form, yet despite further braces against Blackburn, Sheffield United and Aston Villa, Camsell's record haul would stand, unless that was, Everton giant Dean could find seven goals in his final two games.

Everton's penultimate fixture, a short journey to face Burnley at Turf Moor ended in a 5-3 victory for the men in Royal Blue. The Lancashire derby would see Dean grabbing four of the seven goals he needed. Now, with 57 goals in 38 games, it was as if Dixie Dean had written his own thrilling script. The final act of which was to be played out in front of the adoring Evertonians at Goodison Park. One game to play, three goals to score......

## Goodison Park, The Grand Old Lady:

## Unbreakable, Broken

"It wouldn't matter if we had Dixie Dean playing for us, it's always a bloody nightmare going there," - Sir Alex Ferguson

On 28 September, 1884, Everton Football Club beat Earlestown 5-0 in their brand new home. Due to the rapidly growing interest in Association Football and the sheer numbers of spectators Everton games were attracting, the club had no choice but to relocate the short distance from Priory Road to a new venue owned by local landowner Mr. John Orrell.

A friend of the club, as well as Everton chairman Mr. John Houlding, Orrell had offered land to the club for a modest payment in rent.

The inaugural Football League match at the ground, played almost four years later on September 18, 1888, was contested between Everton and Accrington. Everton's tenure at the stadium would see the club turn professional, become a founder member of the English Football League, first compete in the FA Cup, introduce goal nets to Association Football and be crowned Football League champions for the season 1890-91. The following year would be Everton Football Club's final season as tenants of Anfield.

The reasons behind the clubs relocation from Anfield were many and complex and are well documented. Boil those reasons down and the conclusion as to why, is as relative now as it was over one hundred and twenty years ago; cold hard cash. Some things it seems, actually never do change. The un-repairable fracture of the clubs board of directors forced Everton out of Anfield, a break that would in 1892, see director George Mahon lead the club to England's first purpose built football stadium.

Albeit not for the want of trying, and failings, of more recent chairmen, 121 years later, Goodison Park, remains the home of Everton Football Club to this day. In this special feature, tFt's Neil Adderley recalls three 20th century matches played at Goodison Park, each one, for very different reasons, a defining moment in the long and glorious history of the Grand Old Lady of English football.

In season 1926/27 of the English second division, Middlesbrough and later, England centre forward, George Camsell, in his first full season at the club, scored a remarkable 59 league goals which would fire Boro' to the championship and promotion to the top flight. It was a goal scoring achievement many thought would never be broken. Only a few months later, in the second match of season 1927/28, Camsell's Boro met an Everton team led by another colossal young centre forward, William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean.

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